

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A gas sensor comprising:
a housing;
a sensor element disposed within said housing;
a cover having a first and a second end, said cover extending at the first end from an end portion of said housing;
at least four lead wires extending from outside to inside said cover to establish electrical connections with said sensor element; and
an elastic member retained within the second end of said over, said elastic member having formed therein at least four holes through which said lead wires pass, one of the holes having a longitudinal center line substantially coinciding with ~~that a longitudinal center line of said elastic member, on a plane extending perpendicular to a length of the gas sensor~~
wherein a minimum distance between adjacent two of the holes on the plane extending perpendicular to the length of the gas sensor is 1mm or more, and wherein a minimum distance between an outer periphery of said elastic member and one of the holes closest to the periphery of said elastic member is 1mm or more, and wherein the second end of said cover has a portion crimped to retain said elastic member within said cover.
2. (Currently amended) A gas sensor as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein the second end of said cover has a portion crimped to retain said elastic member within said cover, and wherein~~ said elastic member experiences a 10% to 20% reduction in outer diameter due to crimping of the second end of said cover.

Claim 3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) A gas sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the holes have formed on an inner wall thereof a rib which projects in a radius direction of the holes to establish elastic abutment to the lead wires and is opposed to a portion of the second end of said cover crimped to retain said elastic member within said cover in the radius direction of the holes.

5. (Original) A gas sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein said elastic member is made of an insulating material.

6. (Original) A gas sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the holes other than the one formed in the center of said elastic member are arranged at regular intervals in a circle defined about the center of said elastic member.

7. (New) A gas sensor as set forth in claim 1, wherein said elastic member has formed therein at least six holes through which at least six lead wires pass.